

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
SOUTHERN DIVISION

JOE HENRY SCOTT, III, :
Plaintiff, :
vs. : CIVIL ACTION 09-00680-CG-B
CARL WATSON, et al., :
Defendants. :

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

This is an action by a former Alabama inmate alleging violations of 42 U.S.C. § 1983. This case was referred to the undersigned Magistrate Judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and Local Rule 72.2(c)(4) for appropriate action. Because Plaintiff has failed to prosecute and to comply with the Court's Order dated January 20, 2010 (Doc. 9), it is recommended that this action be dismissed without prejudice.

Plaintiff filed this § 1983 action on October 14, 2009, while incarcerated at Fountain Correctional Facility (Doc. 1). Because Plaintiff did not pay the \$350.00 filing fee or submit a motion to proceed without prepayment of fees when he filed his Complaint, the Court directed Plaintiff to file a motion to proceed without prepayment of fees or in lieu thereof, pay the \$350.00 filing fee by November 16, 2009. (Doc. 2). Plaintiff, on October 29, 2009, filed the requisite motion to proceed without prepayment of fees.

On November 4, 2009, the Court issued an Order granting Plaintiff's motion to proceed without prepayment of fees. (Doc. 5). Subsequent thereto, Plaintiff filed a Notice of Change of Address (Doc. 7). In an Order dated January 20, 2010 (Doc. 9), the Court observed that Plaintiff's Notice reflected that he had been released from custody, and that because Plaintiff initiated this action while he was a prisoner, he remained obligated to pay the \$350.00 filing fee in this action. Gay v. Texas Dep't of Corrs. State Jail Div., 117 F.3d 240, 242 (5th Cir. 1997); 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). Accordingly, Plaintiff was directed to pay the filing fee by February 24, 2010, or in lieu thereof, to submit a new motion to proceed without prepayment of fees so the Court could determine a payment schedule for the payment of the \$350.00 filing fee. (Doc. 9). Plaintiff was cautioned that his failure to comply with the Court's Order within the prescribed time would result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute and to obey the Court's Order. Plaintiff's copy of the Court's January 20, 2010 Order has not been returned to the Court, nor has Plaintiff contacted the court since the Order was entered.

Due to Plaintiff's failure to comply with the Court's Order dated January 20, 2010 (Doc. 9), the undersigned concludes that Plaintiff has abandoned the prosecution of his action. Upon consideration of the alternatives available to the Court, it is recommended that this action be dismissed without prejudice

pursuant to Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure as no other lesser sanction will suffice. Link v. Wabash R. R., 370 U.S. 626, 630, 82 S. Ct. 1386, 8 L. Ed. 2d 734 (1962) (interpreting Rule 41(b) not to restrict the court's inherent authority to dismiss *sua sponte* an action for lack of prosecution); World Thrust Films, Inc. v. Int'l Family Entm't, Inc., 41 F.3d 1454, 1456-57 (11th Cir. 1995); Mingo v. Sugar Cane Growers Co-op, 864 F.2d 101, 102 (11th Cir. 1989); Goforth v. Owens, 766 F.2d 1533, 1535 (11th Cir. 1985); Jones v. Graham, 709 F.2d 1457, 1458 (11th Cir. 1983). Accord Chambers v. NASCO, Inc., 501 U.S. 32, 111 S.Ct. 2123, 115 L.Ed.2d 27 (1991) (ruling that federal courts' inherent power to manage their own proceedings authorized the imposition of attorney's fees and related expenses as a sanction); Malautea v. Suzuki Motor Co., 987 F.2d 1536, 1545-46 (11th Cir.) (finding that the court's inherent power to manage actions before it permitted the imposition of fines), *cert. denied*, 510 U.S. 863, 114 S.Ct. 181, 126 L.Ed.2d 140 (1993).

The attached sheet contains important information regarding objections to the Report and Recommendation.

DONE this 12th day of **March, 2010**.

/s/SONJA F. BIVINS
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S EXPLANATION OF PROCEDURAL RIGHTS AND
RESPONSIBILITIES FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION, AND
FINDINGS CONCERNING NEED FOR TRANSCRIPT**

1. ***Objection.*** Any party who objects to this recommendation, or anything in it, must, within **fourteen (14)** days of the date of service of this document, file specific written objections with the Clerk of this Court. Failure to do so will bar a *de novo* determination by the district judge of anything in the recommendation and will bar an attack, on appeal, of the factual findings of the Magistrate Judge. See 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C); Lewis v. Smith, 855 F.2d 736, 738 (11th Cir. 1988); Nettles v. Wainwright, 677 F.2d 404 (5th Cir. Unit B, 1982)(*en banc*). The procedure for challenging the findings and recommendations of the Magistrate Judge is set out in more detail in SD ALA LR 72.4 (June 1, 1997), which provides that:

A party may object to a recommendation entered by a magistrate judge in a dispositive matter, that is, a matter excepted by 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A), by filing a "Statement of Objection to Magistrate Judge's Recommendation" within ten days¹ after being served with a copy of the recommendation, unless a different time is established by order. The statement of objection shall specify those portions of the recommendation to which objection is made and the basis for the objection. The objecting party shall submit to the district judge, at the time of filing the objection, a brief setting forth the party's arguments that the magistrate judge's recommendation should be reviewed *de novo* and a different disposition made. It is insufficient to submit only a copy of the original brief submitted to the magistrate judge, although a copy of the original brief may be submitted or referred to and incorporated into the brief in support of the objection. Failure to submit a brief in support of the objection may be deemed an abandonment of the objection.

A magistrate judge's recommendation cannot be appealed to a Court of Appeals; only the district judge's order or judgment can be appealed.

2. ***Transcript (applicable Where Proceedings Tape Recorded).*** Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915 and FED.R.CIV.P. 72(b), the Magistrate Judge finds that the tapes and original records in this case are adequate for purposes of review. Any party planning to object to this recommendation, but unable to pay the fee for a transcript, is advised that a judicial determination that transcription is necessary is required before the United States will pay the cost of the transcript.

¹The Court's Local rules are being amended to reflect the new computations of time as set out in the amendments to the Federal Rules of Practice and Procedure, effective December 1, 2009.